Plan to cleanse all major rivers

1845. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan has been taken to cleanse all major rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The First River Action Plan i.e. the Ganga Action Plan was taken up by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 1985. Since then its scope has increased to cover all the major rivers of the country in stages and the programme was renamed as National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in 1995. At present the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of NRCP covers 164 towns along polluted stretches of 35 identified rivers spread over 20 States in the country at an approved cost of Rs. 4793 crore. The major rivers covered under the Plan include Ganga, Yamuna Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda besides the rivers Satluj, Krishna, Cauveri and Godavari.

The pollution abatement works undertaken under NRCP include interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the rivers for treatment, installation of Sewage Treatment Plants, creation of low cost sanitation facilities, Electric/improved wood crematoria, River Front Development etc.

Slaughter houses

1846. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unregistered and illegally operating slaughter houses for outnumber the legal ones in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that only 71 of the 461 slaughter houses in 10 States and Union Territories are certified by the concerned State Pollution Control Boards as being equipped with necessary hygienic and anti-pollution mechanism to provide hygienic meat; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that all slaughter houses operate in hygienic conditions with permission from boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pakistan's nuclear programme

1847. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that every successive American Government from President Jimmy Carter to incumbent President George W. Bush has turned a blind eye to Pakistan's nuclear programme and allowed Islamabad to build nuclear facilities in Kahute; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?